

# NON-STANDARD ISSUE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 | AN ALTERNATIVE NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCE FOR CALGARIANS | FEBRUARY 2004

The Palestinian Israeli conflict is portrayed as a political issue, a question of a Palestinian state, borders, Jerusalem, terrorism, etc. These are all red herrings designed to deflect us from the real issue: Should Israel be a state of all of its citizens irrespective of their religion or race?

**The Real Issue is Human Rights**

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**by Fuad Abboud**

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Fuad Abboud is a Palestinian and a member of CCPAR (Calgary Coalition for Peace and Anti-Racism)

Israel is unique in that it purports to be a Jewish state and the state for the Jews of the world. This concept is out of step with the worldwide trend towards cultural diversity.

To see this, suppose France declared itself to be a "Catholic country". What conflicts would this cause with the non-Catholic citizens of France? This actually happened in the 16th century resulting in a 40-year civil war that ended with the Edict of Nantes giving Protestants the same civil rights as Catholics.

But isn't Israel a democracy whose Palestinian citizens vote and are represented in parliament? Consider the facts:

1. Palestinians are under-represented in parliament, in government, in universities and in other institutions.
2. Palestinians cannot serve in the Israeli army.
3. By law, only Jews have access to about 95% of the land of Israel, which is owned by the Jewish National Fund.
4. From 1948 to 1966, Israel's Palestinian population was under a military government and required permits just to travel outside their villages.
5. The Israeli government operates two separate school systems, spending less on the Arab system than on the Jewish system. According to Human Rights Watch, "The gap is enormous--on every criterion measured by Israeli authorities."
6. Palestinians cannot get building permits but Israel spends billions on housing and expressways for exclusive use by Jewish settlers.
7. Over 3 million Palestinians are under Israeli military occupation and cannot vote in Israeli elections.
8. The Law of Return of 1951 grants the automatic right to Israeli citizenship to any Jew in the world, but Palestinian refugees who fled in 1948 are not allowed to return.
9. The concept of a "Jewish" state is inherently racist and discriminates against its non-Jewish citizens. It is disguised - where a law applies to Jews only (such as access to land), the law is stated to "apply only to those to whom the Law of Return applies".

Inside Israel, the growing Palestinian population, now about 20%, is called a "cancer" and referred to as Israel's "demographic problem". Many Israelis and supporters advocate "population transfer" as the solution. In the "Occupied Territories", the problem is more acute. Unlike the war of 1948, the majority of Palestinians did not flee from their homes when Israel occupied the rest of Palestine in 1967. Israel wants to annex this land but does not want to grant citizenship to its 3 million Palestinian inhabitants. If it does, the proportion of non-Jews will increase to almost 50 percent and make it impossible to maintain that Israel is both Jewish and democratic. Hence we have such schemes as "The Separation Barrier", mostly not built on the 1967 border but on Palestinian land, annexing choice lands, separating Palestinians from their farms and enclosing them in walled enclaves.

Israel today faces a clear choice. Give all people equal rights and become a bi-national state – Edict of Nantes solution. Or forget the West Bank and Gaza. There are no other solutions short of ethnic cleansing. ☮

This is a compilation of information found from various sources but mostly taken from [www.stopthewall.org](http://www.stopthewall.org). There was a large variety of information and we tried to summarize it as accurately as possible.

**Facts about the Apartheid Wall aka the Separation Barrier aka the Security Fence**

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**Summary by CANDIL**

On April 15, 2002 Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced that he will isolate Palestinians from Israelis by erecting "walls and buffer zones" in a plan of "unilateral separation."

In June of 2002, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) began confiscating Palestinian farmland and uprooting thousands of olive and other fruit trees, tearing down 85 commercial buildings, and destroying at least 30 km of water networks to make way for the Apartheid Wall. The Israeli government began building the Wall in June 2002 in the northern West Bank districts of Jenin, Tulkarem, and Qalqiliya. At the end of July 2003, Israel announced the completion of this section, which stretches some 145 km. In December 2003, Israel declared that in 2004 520km of the planned 728 km would be completed and the entire project would be finished in 2005. It is estimated that each kilometer costs \$1-2 million.

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## WEB LINKS

- [www.stopthewall.org/](http://www.stopthewall.org/)
- [www.fromoccupiedpalestine.org/](http://www.fromoccupiedpalestine.org/)
- [www.bitterlemons.org/](http://www.bitterlemons.org/)
- If you would like to see a map of the Wall go to [www.passia.org](http://www.passia.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**CANDIL Discussion Night**

Come learn more about the Separation Barrier. Regan Boychuk of the PCSS will be our guest speaker.

Friday, February 27  
at 7:00 p.m.

Parkdale United Church  
2919-8 Ave. N.W.

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**WHAT WE BELIEVE**

CANDIL promotes global human security through a culture of peace, active democracy and respect for international law. Our vision is global; our strategy is local.

**PRINCIPLES**

**Necessity of International Law for Global Peace and Security**

International law is essential for global peace and security, including the peace and security of Canadians. As citizens of Canada, we are expected to obey the law; we expect the same standard of behavior from our government. The government of Canada, and all Canadian political parties, must comply with the fundamental requirements, principles, and purposes of international law, and give international law decisive weight in the formulation and implementation of foreign policy.

**Lessons from Iraq**

Western policy toward Iraq has contributed to a humanitarian and human rights disaster in that country, and has violated international law, including the law of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law. The errors and violations of our Iraq policy must be made explicit and used as lessons for constructive change in the direction of Canada's foreign policy, to avoid similarly destructive and costly errors in the future, both in Iraq and in other parts of the world.

**Democracy and Responsible Citizenship**

A critical, informed, active citizenry is a fundamental requirement of democracy. Citizens are ultimately responsible for the public policy of their government. Citizens of Canada are responsible for compliance of Canadian foreign policy with the law of the United Nations Charter, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law. Familiarity with the basic principles and purposes of international law is an indispensable part of education for responsible citizenship.

**Facts - continued from page 1**

The Wall begins at the northern most point in the West Bank and runs through the western districts of the West Bank to the north of Jerusalem. The Wall is not being built on or near the 1967 Green Line and at points reaches 16 km deep right into the heart of the West Bank. The area between the wall and the Green Line is now considered a "closed military zone," which means that Palestinians living in that area will need permits.

The Wall annexes nearly 210,000 acres of the West Bank. 85% of the land the Wall occupies is Palestinian and 15 % Israeli. Furthermore, 274,000 Palestinians in the West Bank will be outside the Wall. Many residents inside the Wall will be separated from their farms, families, friends, schools and medical facilities.

The Wall takes on a variety of forms. Around Qalqiliya the Wall is pure concrete, eight meters high and fortified with armed watchtowers. In other areas, it may be part concrete/part fence or a series of razor wire and/or electric fencing all of which includes a 30-100 meter "buffer zone" with trenches, roads, razor wire, cameras, and trace paths for footprints. In Bethlehem and Jerusalem, the Wall is made up of a combination of



A section of the Apartheid Wall aka Separation Barrier aka Security Fence.

these edifices. The wall will cut through neighbourhoods and villages in East Jerusalem and will almost completely encircle Bethlehem. ☺

The Israeli government has argued to the international community that there is a necessity for the Wall for security reasons.

**(Il)legality of the Separation Barrier**

**Summary by CANDIL**

Summary of the article by Michael Kearney "The Violence of Construction: Israel's Wall and International Law" published in the Electronic Intifada, November 4, 2003

Though security is a valid concern, any measure of protection a government or occupying power takes must be done in accordance with international law. Unfortunately, the current structure breaks international law in at least three different areas: the confiscation and destruction of property, freedom of movement, and annexation.

**Confiscation and Destruction of Property:**

An occupying power is not allowed to confiscate and destroy homes and property unless it is absolutely necessary for military needs. The Wall seems not to be for military necessity but rather as a long planned broader security policy and most probably a permanent feature with fortification status. The land confiscated should also be in proportion to the areas resources which in this region have been decimated by 35 years of occupation and the amount of land seized does not comply with this criteria.

**Laws violated:** Article 17(1) of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); Article 52 of the Hague Regulations; Articles 53 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention; Article 8 of the International Criminal Court.

**Freedom of Movement:**

Under international law everyone has the right of freedom of movement within their own state. The separation barrier inhibits movement of Palestinians from one side of the Wall to the other. Furthermore, the Wall separates people from medical facilities, schools, and other necessities which breaks international law.

**Laws violated:** Articles 33, 50, 55, 56, 72 of the Fourth Geneva Convention; Article 12(1) of the ICCPR.

**Annexation:**

International law clearly states that land cannot be acquired through military force or threat. By not building the separation barrier on the Green Line, Israel is de facto annexing part of Palestinian territory. This action clearly violates many international laws.

**Laws violates:** UN Security Council Resolution 242; Article 2(4) of the UN Charter; 1970 Declaration of the Principles of International Law; Article 55 of the Hague Regulations; Article 47 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. ☺

Over the past few months, the barrier that Israel is building to cut itself off from the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank has come to symbolise the divide between the two peoples at the heart of the Middle East crisis.

## Divide and Destroy

by Alex Kaushofer

Christian Aid  
December 4, 2003

Cutting into Palestinian lands by up to six kilometres, the barrier takes different forms along its length - here an imposing

concrete construction, there a steel fence and a tangle of barbed wire.

But whatever the barrier's form, its impact on the communities it dominates is devastating. In the farming villages of the northern West Bank, what was once a self-sufficient way of life is dying out because farmers cannot access their land.

The fertile valley that supported most of Jayyous's 3,500 people with yields from olive groves and citrus orchards is now locked behind the barrier, accessible to some only through gates administered by the Israeli army.

A few farmers are just managing to cling onto their land, forced to accept the permit system imposed by the Israeli authorities to get through the gate. Yet even with permits they must queue for the gate openings at the beginning and end of each day.

Sometimes the soldiers refuse to open the gate at all. In September it was closed for 20 days during the Israeli holiday season. At other times the soldiers just do not allow farmers through.

To combat this problem, a new population of farmer-campers has sprung up behind the gate, living away from their families in sheds and tents rather than risk being refused access to their land by the soldiers. They risk arrest as they are not meant to stay on their land overnight.

They are the lucky ones. Jayyous resident Faheema Saleem has 11 children and a disabled husband. Her family is now one of the poorest in the village because most of their land was confiscated and destroyed by Israeli construction workers who cleared it to make way for the barrier.

'All our land is behind the wall,' she says. 'We had two greenhouses, two acres of irrigated land, a big orchard of olives and open grazing land of up to 25 acres. Now we have this' - she gestures to a small garden plot in front of her house - 'and 13 olive trees.'

To keep the family afloat, Faheema receives food parcels of basics such as lentils and flour as part of a new

programme run by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee, an organisation supported by Christian Aid.

'We have a new humanitarian problem in the village and we now have a large number of families who are totally dependent,' says Marian Shamasanah, the food programme co-ordinator and assistant head of the Jayyous women's club.

'I have been 14 years in this club. We never thought about humanitarian support until this year. In normal times it's not socially accepted to take food. Normally, we hold classes in first aid, family planning and handicrafts, but we are not involved in a humanitarian programme like this.'

A few miles over the hills, the people of Jbarra are also turning to humanitarian aid as a direct result of the barrier. Most of the greenhouses in this farming hamlet of 350 people lie empty and its one road is lined with dying fruit trees as landowners outside the gate have been denied access to water their crops.

But Jbarra's odd status as one of 15 villages caught between the barrier and the Green Line that separates Israel from the West Bank has created further deprivations. In October the Israeli authorities declared the area a closed military zone and tried to issue its inhabitants with permits to access their land on the other side of the wall. Jbarra residents rejected the permits. For them it was a matter of principle. In response the Israeli army has refused to let them leave their village.

As a result, people have been unable to get to their jobs and businesses in the neighbouring towns and villages, or to the markets where they sell their produce.

Access to healthcare is also a problem. Ennas Awad tried to take her month-old baby to the doctor in Tulkarem but was denied access. 'I told the soldiers the baby was ill, but they didn't believe me,' she says. 'They said: "Everyone who wants to go to Tulkarem says their son or daughter is ill. But we will not allow you to pass. You are a liar."'

Temporary relief has come in the form of a mobile clinic run by the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees - another local charity supported by Christian Aid. The clinic was hastily assembled in someone's house and announced over the mosque Tannoy by the sheik. But Azam Mahmoud, one of the doctors in the clinic, is clear about the limitations of this one-off healthcare solution. 'To resolve the problem in Jbarra, you must start a permanent clinic with doctors and medicines in the village,' he said.

The new dependency emerging in the communities destroyed by the barrier is yet another example of how the poverty afflicting the Palestinians is a human creation. Here aid is not just part of the solution, it's a symptom of the underlying problem.

As William Bell, Christian Aid's advocacy officer for Israel and the Palestinians told the parliamentary international development committee: 'This is a political problem created by the occupation of the Palestinian territories. A political solution is needed to tackle this ongoing humanitarian crisis.' ✌

## ACTIVIST PROFILE

CAROLYN POGUE

Carolyn Pogue is a role model for many Calgarians. She is a founding member of Calgary's chapter of "Women in Black," a group that started in Israel to protest the occupation. Now it is an international peace network that focuses on mobilization and action against human rights abuses. Carolyn has focused on the Israeli/Palestinian issue and, in January 2003, she went to Jordan, Israel and Palestine with a peace delegation of six people. You can find out more about her trip at [www.ucobserver.org/archives/apr03\\_world.htm](http://www.ucobserver.org/archives/apr03_world.htm). Carolyn is an author of children's books. Her most recent work is "Stories for a New Day (Peace Fables for Young People)." Her commitment to the international peace community and the work that she has done is an inspiration for all of us.

...its impact on the communities it dominates is devastating.

**CANDIL**

Canada,  
Democracy, and  
International Law

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**STANDARD ISSUE** is a military term meaning officially supplied and sanctioned material. **NON-STANDARD ISSUE** is the term used to describe the opposite, material that is contraband. We hope this newsletter will give alternative views, broaden the minds of citizens, and encourage them to voice their opinions about democracy, peace, international law and responsible citizenship.

“Only free men can negotiate; prisoners cannot enter into contracts. Your freedom and mine cannot be separated.”  
— Nelson Mandela

Haggai Matar never expected that his sentence would be so harsh. But as the teenage refusenik reports to a military prison today, he says he will draw comfort

**It's because they fear us**  
— say teenage refuseniks jailed by Israeli army  
**by Chris McGreal**  
**The Guardian**  
**January 7, 2004**

from the judges' description of him as a threat to the survival of Israel.

Mr. Matar is one of five young men starting one-year sentences at No 6 military prison near Haifa.

They all refused to serve because they object to the occupation.

“I take it as a compliment that they are so afraid of our ability to persuade others that they called us dangerous and have to lock us up,” said Mr. Matar, 19.

Until now, objectors have generally been allowed to walk free, or have received administrative sentences of a few weeks in jail, to save the military public embarrassment.

But Mr. Matar and his colleagues went public with their protest, and encouraged others to join them, at a time when the Israeli army is confronting a wave of objections.

Nearly 1,000 school leavers and reservists have signed refusal letters, and members of elite forces such as fighter pilots and commandos say they will no longer attack Palestinian targets because the large numbers of civilian casualties amounted to war crimes.

To deter the movement, the army made it known that Mr. Matar and his colleagues had been hauled before the first such court martial since 1981.

“To date the army's policy against the refuseniks was to put them in prison for three or four months,” Mr. Matar said.

“During the verdict and sentencing they said they were punishing us much more severely because we went public, because we affect other people.”

The three judges said they were guilty of a “very severe crime which constitutes a manifest and concrete danger to our existence and our survival”.

One judge, Colonel Avi Levi, stopped just short of accusing them of treason. “The accused made their

refusal public so as to put in question the justification for the army's operations and the morality of taking part in the army,” he said.

“Further, by so doing they undermine the international legitimacy of the state's actions and help hostile nations by providing them with new arguments.”

The five are not typical of Israeli youth, nor of the broader refusenik movement. They mostly come from radical families with long attachments to the peace camp. Noam Bahat, 20, touches on issues rarely discussed among Israelis.

“Every day people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip suffer abuse, humiliation, poverty and hunger – things that happen because of the occupation,” he said.

“You begin to understand that there is a reason for the bombings, the terror attacks. You ask how people can get to the situation where people kill themselves and kill others, and you realise they are desperate.”

He acknowledges that his is not a popular view.

“Sometimes people react badly to what I say. They say that we're destroying the country, we're anti-democratic, we're the worst criminals.”

**Until now, objectors have generally been allowed to walk free, or have received administrative sentences of a few weeks in jail.**

The group's willingness to ask penetrating questions about the cause of the violence has made them a less embarrassing target for court martial than pilots and commandos with distinguished records.

But the five are confident that their trial will backfire by encouraging, not deterring, the growing ranks of refuseniks.

So far, more than 400 have signed the “high school letter” refusing to serve. A further 550 who served and are now reservists have signed a similar document objecting to policing the occupation.

In recent weeks, 28 pilots and 13 members of an elite commando unit have joined the refuseniks.

The five each spent 14 months or more in detention before their court martial, so know what to expect behind bars. After that, they are not so sure.

“It's very unclear where the army is going with this,” Mr. Matar said. “It is possible that, when the year ends, they will send us back to be inducted into the army - and we will refuse, and it will all start again.” ✌

The "separation fence" Israel is building in the West Bank will have "severe humanitarian consequences" for almost 700,000 Palestinians, the UN warned yesterday.

## UN: Israeli fence 'will harm one in three Palestinians'

By Justin Huggler

The Independent  
December 11, 2003

More than 274,000 will be stranded outside the wall because Israel refuses to build it along the internationally recognised Green Line. Thousands will be forced to apply for Israeli military permits to live in their own homes.

But the consequences will reach further, the report warns. A further 400,000 Palestinians will be cut off from their farmland, their jobs, universities and schools. "This means that approximately 680,000 - 30 per cent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank - will be directly harmed by the wall," the UN said in a report.

The "fence" - a series of concrete walls, deep trenches and double fences fitted with electronic sensors - has attracted international condemnation. Palestinians call it "Israel's Berlin Wall". Even the US, Israel's main ally, says it is not happy with the route. Israel says the purpose is to prevent Palestinian suicide bombers and other attackers crossing into Israel.

Only 11 per cent of the route approved so far runs along the Green Line, according to yesterday's UN report. The result is that 210,000 acres, or 14.5 per cent of the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, will be cut off from the rest of the West Bank by the wall.

International observers, including Condoleezza Rice, President George Bush's National Security Adviser, have said the project looks like an attempt to create a new de facto border - in other words a land grab of 210,000 acres. The Palestinians have warned that the wall could be the death of the two-state solution envisaged by President Bush.

Israel claims the fence is not intended to be a border and is a temporary measure. But the UN report says: "The damage caused by the destruction of land and property for the wall's construction is irreversible". The report describes how Palestinians will have to pass through checkpoints in the wall to reach their farmland, offices, schools and hospitals. In 12 places, enclaves will be surrounded by concrete walls.

The Israeli Cabinet recently approved a route for the fence which will cut 22 km into the West Bank so that the Jewish settlement of Ariel can be on the "Israeli" side. The result of detours like this is that 142,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank in contravention of international law, and 274,000 Palestinians will be in the area between the fence and the Green Line.

But while the settlers will be allowed to cross freely in and out of Israel, the Palestinians will not. They will be confined to what Israel has decided will be a "closed zone". The report describes how some 13,545 Palestinians living in the "closed zone" next to a completed section of the wall have been told by the Israeli army that they must apply for permits to go on living in their own homes. The permits are valid for up to six months.

"These permits have turned a 'right' of Palestinians to live in their own homes into a privilege," the report says. Palestinian farmers, businessmen, doctors, medical staff and aid organisations will have to apply for permits to enter the "closed zone". The report says Israeli citizens and non-citizens of Jewish origin are exempt.

"Little consideration appears to have been given by the Israeli government to the wall's impact on Palestinian lives," says the report.

"If the military orders that restrict entry into the closed areas between the Green Line and the wall are applied to the new parts of the wall, then many thousands of Palestinians are likely to be forced from their homes and land." ✌

The majority of this information was taken from the New Internationalist World Guide 2003/2004.

## Brief Timeline of Palestine/Israel

Summary by  
CANDIL

### 1516-1917

In 1516, Jerusalem was conquered by the Ottoman Empire which maintained power until the end of World War I. During the conflict, the British promised Shereef Hussein the independence of the Arab lands in

exchange for his cooperation in the struggle against the Turks. At the same time, in 1917, British Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour promised the Zionist movement the establishment of a "Jewish National Homeland" in Palestine.

### 1919

The Palestinians convened their first National Conference and expressed their opposition to the Balfour Declaration.

### 1922

The Council of the League of Nations issued a Mandate for Palestine. The Mandate was in favour of the establishment for the Jewish people a homeland in Palestine.

## What you can do to become a more responsible citizen.

Be informed. The following articles are two good sources that can get you started:

<http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=22&ItemID=4514>

<http://www.cupe.bc.ca/index.php4?id=1592>

Participate in open dialogues with your friends and family about the situation. Help to keep them informed.

Write to your Member of Parliament, Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Bill Graham) and tell them what you think Canada should do in this situation. Go to [www.candil.ca](http://www.candil.ca) for a sample letter and addresses. Remember your letters don't need postage if sent to a federal MP.

Get involved in local organizations that deal with the issue. For example, the PCSS (Palestinian Canadian Student Society) has a webpage with information and related upcoming events ([www.pcsscald.org](http://www.pcsscald.org)). Other local groups that deal with this issue include the Calgary Chapter of Women in Black and the Calgary Coalition for Peace and Anti-Racism.

Timeline - continued from page 5

**1936**

The Palestinians held a six-month General Strike to protest against the confiscation of land and Jewish immigration.

**In November 1967, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 242. The resolution emphasized “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war” and called for the “withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the territory occupied in the recent conflict.” It also called for all countries in the region to end their state of war and to respect the right of each country “to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.”**

**1947**

The UN convened its first special session in 1947, and on November 29, 1947, it adopted a plan calling for partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states in which the Jews were granted 55% of the land. Before 1947, they owned 6%.

**1948**

On May 14, Israel proclaimed itself and independent country. On May 15, the armies of Egypt, Transjordan (now Jordan), Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq joined Palestinian and other Arab guerrillas who had been fighting Jewish forces since November 1947. The civil war became an international conflict: the first Arab-Israeli War.

**1956**

Second Arab-Israeli War erupted in October.

**1964**

The Palestine Liberation Organization was established.

**1967**

The Six-Day War left Israel in possession of Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, taken from

Egypt; Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank, taken from Jordan; and the Golan Heights, taken from Syria. Land under Israel’s jurisdiction after the 1967 war was about four times the size of the area within its 1949 armistice frontiers. In November, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 242. The resolution emphasized “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war” and called for the “withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from the territory occupied in the recent conflict.” It also called for all countries in the region to end their state of war and to respect the right of each country “to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.” After the

war, Israel held 78% of historical Palestine.

**1974**

United Nations gave the PLO observer status. Yasir Arafat, chairman of the PLO, addressed the General Assembly.

**1979**

Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed in Washington, D.C. 1982 Israel launched an invasion of Lebanon aimed at wiping out the PLO presence there. Massacre at Sabra and Shatila kills 3000.

**1987**

First Intifada (popular uprising) launched against Israel.

**1988**

Jordan gave up the West Bank to the Palestinian people, to be used in the formation of a Palestinian State.

**1990**

Yasir Arafat addressed the UN Security Council in which he called for the deployment of a UN emergency force to provide protection for the Palestinian people. The US vetoed a motion calling for the Security Council to send a fact finding mission to the area.

**1993**

Oslo Agreement signed in Washington.

**1994**

Prime Minister Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace agreement ending 46 years of war and strained relations.

**1995**

Oslo II. The West Bank is divided into three zones, where the Palestinians only control security in some of the larger cities. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin assassinated by a young Israeli.

**1996**

First Palestinian elections, considered as free and fair with a good turn out. Yassir Arafat elected president.

**2000**

Second Intifada begins in October after Prime Minister Sharon visits Al-Aqsa mosque with thousands of security forces.

**2003**

Since the Second Intifada began 920 Israelis have died (source: Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and 2,417 Palestinians have died (source: Palestinian Red Crescent Society). ☹

**NEXT ISSUE:  
The Lies Issue**

One year after the US and UK led invasion of Iraq, Non-Standard Issue looks at the reasons for the war and where we are now.